



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

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Route To:

Subject: Rest and Recuperation (R&R) for Pacific Northwest Contract Engine and Tender Resources

To: National MAC Group

The intent of this letter is to clarify the use of contract engine and tender resources in meeting agency R&R policy. The R&R policy is to better provide for safe and well-rested firefighters based on recent safety reviews. It is recognized when personnel have back-to-back assignments without benefit of adequate rest, long term fatigue becomes a factor and injuries increase over time. It is the intent of R-6 to ensure that all agency contract resources follow this policy.

We have applied this policy decision to all of our personnel who are dispatched to an incident and it is expected that contract personnel would be managed by the Incident Management Team (IMT) consistently, under the same policy.

There are some differences between contract resources and agency employees which are recognized:

- **R&R Policy** - It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that their personnel meet contract requirements for rest and recuperation. The Government shall use the R&R guidelines as defined in section 12.72 of the NWCG Handbook #2 Interagency Incident Business Management Handbook to monitor contractor's compliance with the provisions. Appropriate action may be taken against contractors found in non-compliance.
- **Assignment of Resources** - Incident officials may retain contract engines and tenders for the duration of the incident, if needed as long as contract personnel meet agency R&R guidelines as administered by the incident official. Engine & tender contractors may rotate personnel while leaving equipment in place at the incident assignment.
- **Released** - Contract resources cannot be required to return to their home unit when they are released. Contractors who elect not to return to their home unit upon release are no longer operating under their Northwest Area Contract.
- **Reassigned** - Contract resources that are properly dispatched and reassigned to another incident via the dispatch process are still under the Northwest Area Contract and the terms and rates in the contract remain in effect.



National MAC Group

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Please address any questions to the Director of Aviation and Fire Management or his acting.


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